

## Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SCCT-01 IO-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 /094 W

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R 271520Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 496

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SA

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF FINAL EGYPTIAN-SAUDI  
COMMUNIQUE

1. LOCAL PRESS FEBRUARY 27 BANNER HEADLINES "TOTAL AGREEMENT"  
CONTAINED IN JOINT SAUDI-EGYPTIAN COMMUNIQUE AT END OF SADAT FIVE-  
DAY VISIT. EGYPTIAN DAILIES STRESS (A) SAUDI GRANT OF \$300  
MILLION IN ECONOMIC AID, (B) SAUDI CALL IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR  
OTHER ARAB STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TO EGYPT'S ECONOMIC NEEDS AND  
(C) STATEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE CONCERNING UNIFICATION OF SAUDI-  
EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON COMING STAGES OF ME PROBLEM AND NEED FOR PLO  
TO BE REPRESENTED IN WORLD FORUMS AS LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF PALESTINIANS.

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2. COMMENT: PRESS COMMENTARY ON SADAT VISIT REFLECTS GOE POSITION ON OUTCOME OF SADAT VISIT. ON THE ONE HAND, IT UNDERSCORES ALLEGED COMMON AGREEMENT ON ALL POINTS THEREBY IMPLYING GOE LEADERSHIP IN ARAB WORLD AGAIN PROVEN. ON OTHER HAND, EGYPTIAN DISAPPOINTMENT AT AMOUNT OF NEW SAUDI AID PLEDGED -- CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN \$1 BILLION RECENTLY RUMORED IN GUMHURIYA -- IS SHOWN IN GENERALLY FACTUAL AND LOW-KEY TREATMENT OF NEW SAUDI AID FIGURE. IT THROWS COLD WATER ON EGYPTIAN EXPECTATION THAT SAUDIA, ALONG WITH OTHER NON-CONFRONTATION STATES, HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE MASSIVE SUPPORT TO GOE FOR SACRIFICES IT HAS MADE IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION. EGYPTIANS RECOGNIZED MAGNITUDE OF SAUDI AID WOULD BE MEASURE FOR OTHER GULF STATES CONTRIBUTIONS. PRIVATELY, AND HAVING IN MIND MAGNITUDE OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEM, EGYPTIANS VIEW \$300 MILLION FIGURE AS PALTRY AND INCOMMENSURATE WITH WHAT THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT. AS RESULT, OTHER GULF STATES WILL ALSO BE LEERY OF OFFERING GENEROUS AID.

3. NEWLY PUBLISHED SAUDI AID HAS DEMONSTRATED SHARPLY TO EGYPTIANS THAT THEIR CHERISHED HOPES FOR MASSIVE ARAB OIL STATES' INFUSION OF CAPITAL MAY HAVE BEEN ILLUSORY. FOR SOME, THIS MAY RESULT IN A MORE REALISTIC APPRAISAL OF WHAT GOE NEEDS TO DO TO REDRESS ITS ABYSMAL ECONOMIC SITUATION; FOR OTHERS, IT WILL BE VIEWED AS LACK OF GRATITUDE OF WEALTHY ARAB BROTHERS FOR GOE'S PRIMARY ROLE IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION. WHILE EGYPTIANS MIGHT LIKE TO PUBLICLY EXCORIATE SAUDI TIGHTFISTEDNESS, THEY CLEARLY CANNOT AFFORD TO DO SO. SAME TIME, DESPITE ALL BALLYHOO ABOUT SADAT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPTIANS HAVE AGAIN LEARNED THAT UNLIMITED SAUDI FINANCIAL AID CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. ADMITTEDLY, 1976 HAS JUST BEGUN AND SAUDI AND OTHER ARAB AID IN FORM OF GRANTS MAY YET BE EXTRACTED LATER IN THE YEAR, BUT EGYPTIANS MUST NOW RECOGNIZE ARAB PURSESTRINGS WILL HAVE TO BE PRIED OPEN AND THAT THIS WILL BE A MAJOR OPERATION WITH RESULTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FAR FROM CLEAR. AT MINIMUM, EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC PLANNERS WILL HAVE TO SCALE DOWN THEIR ROSEATE ESTIMATE OF SAUDI AND OTHER ARAB AID FOR CY 76 AND BEYOND.  
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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1976  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, EAID, SA, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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